

GENTILES CIRCUMCISED?

Acts 15:1-22

Acts 15:1 *Except ye be circumcised:* Become proselyte Jew. Join Jewish religion. Unless commit to keeping Law of Moses can't be saved.

Salvation equals grace plus works. Eph 2:8-9.

Acts 15:2 *Dissension:* controversy

Disputation: discussion, debate, argument Gal 2:11-13

Is contention ever right? Yes, when it affects the body of Christ. When it causes people to stumble. Prov 25:9

Acts 15:3 *Brought on their way ...:* common for the Christians to accompany apostles

Declaring... Telling everyone they met about conversion of Gentiles.

caused great joy unto all the brethren. No jealousy among the Palestinian Christians. They were glad to hear of the Gentiles coming to Christ.

Acts 15:4 *Received of the church:* Welcomed

...and they declared ... God opened door of salvation to Gentiles, we have been called to preach to the Gentiles, so have you.

Acts 15:5 *But there rose ...Pharisees:* separatists ...legalists ... added traditions to commandments ,... same level as OT.

Pharisees which believed: insisted on keeping all traditions of law a...added Christ to list of rules to go to heaven. Judaizers.

Four meetings with saints in Jerusalem: Gal 1-2

- ❖ Church
- ❖ Key leaders
- ❖ Church
- ❖ Council of elders

Acts 15:6 *Consider:* inspect, look into, decide

Faced with a decision that would determine the fate of future of Christianity.

Acts 15:7 *Disputing:* arguing, debating the truth , Questioning validity

Peter:

- Spokesman since Pentecost.
- Apostle to circumcision/Jews

You know how God chose me for special task...to be mouthpiece of word of gospel to Gentiles.

Acts 15:8 *Bare them witness:* Showed them that He accepted them

giving them the Holy Ghost...; God gave Gentile believers the Holy Spirit just like us.

Point: Holy Spirit baptized Gentiles into body of Christ same way as the Jews.

Acts 15:9 *And put no difference ...* saved by faith, not works. Their hearts made new (purified) as result of being saved. Same as us.

Acts 15:10 *Tempt ye God:* reference to OT Exo 17:2; Deu 6:14 -16

Why are you trying to force these rules upon believers without direction from God ? God already accepted them, just like accepted you...with or without circumcision.

To put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples: You are restricting their freedom in Christ by imposing you legal system on them.

None of our spiritual forefathers were able to function under this yoke of bondage.

Our fathers: Those Jews before us.

Were able to bear? endure, hold up under.

Acts 15:11 Salvation is through grace of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Acts 15:12 *Kept silence:* nothing to say.

Final witnesses--Barnabas and Paul. *declaring what miracles and wonders ...*

Confirmed their truthfulness.

Acts 15:13 To Judaizers, James was spokesman.

Acts 15:14 *Simeon hath declared...* Reference to Peter's visit to house of Cornelius ... *take out of them a people for his name.* God is calling out of the Gentiles a people to represent His name to the world. Definition of NT church

Acts 15:15 -16 James uses passages which relate to reasoning powers of the Jews.

God hasn't forgotten His promise to rebuild tabernacle of David.

God will restore kingdom to Israel.

Just because God called Gentiles to represent His name doesn't mean rejected Israel.

Assuring them that admission of Gentiles into church is not annulling or doing away with God's plan for Israel.

Acts 15:17 Remaining part of mankind seek after Lord.

Gentiles called to Lord with no prerequisite of becoming proselyte Jews first.

Acts 15:18 All of this opposition and unbelief on the part of the Jews doesn't surprise God.

God knew all along about Jews rejection of Christ, calling of Gentiles, and future millennial kingdom.

Acts 15:19 ...*my sentence* ... Quit creating problems for these men and Gentile believers!

Don't try to impose religious scruples on them

Acts 15:20 Spiritual issue. Don't place anything or anyone before God. 13; 10:14-33). Moral Issue: No sex outside of marriage union!

Ritual issue: Don't drink blood.

Acts 15:21 Very important to the Jews.

Acts 15:22 Send two leaders in church in Jerusalem to authenticate decision ...make sure there no misunderstanding among Gentiles